

**TOWN OF ENFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025 – 2:00 P.M.
ENFIELD SENIOR CENTER, 299 ELM STREET**

Attendance

Present: Mike Arnone Jr., Pauline Devino, Alice Egan, Howard Florian, Dave Goyette, Marlene Hoginski, Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager, Priscilla (Pat) Linehan, Justin Lopez, Elderly Care Services Coordinator, Tim Slade, Kay Tallarita and Will St. George.

Absent (Excused): Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison, Cynthia Guerreri, Staff Liaison, Mary Ann Harris, and Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison.

I. Welcome

Chairman Alice Egan opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. Secretary's Report:

Alice Egan asked if everyone reviewed the minutes. With no corrections needed, Dave Goyette made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as presented and Tim Slade seconded the motion which was carried through a show of hands.

III. Treasurer's Report:

Tim Slade presented the financial report and noted that the only expenses for this month are for Verizon for the use of a phone for CHOICES and a check to Mixtape Marketing (Minuteman) for the new 2025 Blue Books which will be paid this week. He noted that there is no money left in the budget for this year. Regarding the Donation Account, Tim said that he has not yet heard that the approved amount has been distributed. He indicated that Cindy Guerreri advised that Finance is still trying to figure out how to disperse the funds. Regarding next year's budget, Tim reported that \$10,000 has been allocated to the COA. In this regard, Tim asked if we would like to consider how to distribute the \$10,000 to the existing budget accounts so that we can start the new budget year with new figures available for each existing account. After much discussion, it was decided to allocate the same amounts in this year's budget accounts to next year's budget accounts, with the exception of CHOICES, which will be decreased to \$150.00 for the year with the remainder of the account being moved to the Missions and Outreach account. With this discussion agreeable, Marlene Hoginski made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and set the new budget figures for 2025/2026 to the accounts as discussed and Kay Tallarita seconded the motion with all members agreeing through a show of hands. Tim commented that the July financial report will reflect the new budget figures for 2025/2026.

IV. Senior Center Focus

Mary Keller was running late so in her absence, Marlene Hoginski reported that the June Police Picnic was well received with over 400 residents in attendance. She also reported that social events are being planned for the entire year including an ice cream social in July, a concert by Cheryl Faye in September and a Halloween Party in October. Evergreen Assisted Living has offered to sponsor monthly ice cream socials which will gladly be received. Marlene also indicated that the Friends of the Senior Center will be providing financial assistance for some of these social events.

V. Standing Committee Reports

A. Senior Living TV Program

Pat Linehan reported that the last taping for the year was on June 4th with an interview with two sisters from the Sisters of the Poor as guests. The sisters discussed their mission, outreach to the community and how the sisters support them. Dave Goyette reported that Pat Linehan is the new interviewer for the TV program and praised her for her interviewing skills. He also reviewed the program schedule of interviews to be aired in July and August.

V. Standing Committee Reports (continued)

B. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Kay Tallarita reported that the funds promised from the distribution of the approved Donation Account have not yet been received. Fortunately, the Women's League has donated \$800.00 to be used to fund registrations for summer camp for some of the children. Many other children may benefit if the money from the Donation Account distribution is received before the registrations are filled. Kay indicated that today is the big picnic and which will be last meeting until September. She also noted that since their last interaction with the group, the Community Police have expressed an interest in considering this group as one of their community charities.

C. Triad

Dave Goyette reported that there was no meeting this month, however, the group will be meeting on July 1st. He noted that planning continues for the September Safety and Wellness presentation.

D. Choices

Will St. George was late to this meeting so there was no report, however, Justin Lopez discussed the Medicare Savings Plan and how the funding may be affected by new Federal Administration regulations.

VI. Old Business

A. Social Services

Cindy Guerreri was not present so there was no report., however, Justin Lopez discussed the Care Givers Support Group. He noted that the first run of the group went well with good response and lots of support, with the second run being increased from 4 to 8 sessions. Justin said that they are making time adjustments so that more care givers may be able to attend since more than half of the attendees are isolated due to the restraints of being a care giver.

B. Friends of the Senior Center

Marlene Hoginski reported that the last meeting of the committee until September will be tomorrow. She noted that the Friends have been able to purchase one new treadmill at a cost of about \$4,500 (2023 pricing discount) to supplement the purchase of 4 other treadmills purchased through the donations of family deceased members who willed money for the purchase of Fitness Center equipment. Marlene noted that the next purchase under consideration is the replacement of Dining Room furniture.

C. Symposium (not on the agenda)

Pat Linehan asked that we continue discussion on the Symposium even though it is not on the agenda. She apologized for the inaction on this item over the year, but asked if there is still interest in pursuing it. Many agreed that past symposiums have been very positive and several great programs were the result of the symposium such as the Triad Committee and Senior Living TV programming. Tim Slade suggested that we maintain this initiative on the agenda, fund it accordingly and revisit progress at each meeting to see where we will go with it. Pat suggested that over the summer talk with some people who would be willing to be participants. Alice Egan commented that there are a number of community minded citizens who may be willing participants since many were involved in the first Symposium. Will St George agreed that we should move forward since there are a number of Medicare and aging issues that can be explored. All agreed that we will keep this item on the agenda and pursue timing and format issues. Mary Keller commented that there is a lot of anxiety over what will occur with the new administration. She noted that she still has funding in her new budget for 3 days of congregate meals however, it has been reported that there has been a 38% increase in the request for meals at Loaves and Fishes and that the Warming Center facility has reported an increase in older women who have no place to live. Will commented that NCAAA can help to facilitate some information.

VI.I. New Business

A. COA Initiatives

2025 Blue Book

Marlene Hoginski commented that this morning on Channel 3 there was a report about the 2025 Blue Book being distributed in Enfield. Most of the members were not aware that this broadcast had occurred, but were pleased with the publicity. Dave Goyette said that this publicity was probably the result of the press release through DSS which may have been picked up by TV channels and newspapers. He also thanked Alice Egan, Kay Tallarita and Pat Linehan for assisting with the booklet delivery. Dave reported that 5,000 copies have been received with 1,000 copies each going to Town Hall, the Library, Social Services and the Senior Center and 500 copies to the COA for the Police Department, Housing Authority and other services like the Food Shelf. Dave suggested that each Commissioner take 50 each for distribution; they will be available at DSS. He also reported that 750 pens and letter openers each have been ordered, but are not yet available. Howard Florian and Mike Arnone, Jr. will handle their distribution.

B. Town Council Reports

Due to the absence of Council Liaisons, there was no report this month.

VIII. Announcements

In view of the anticipated absence of some COA members in July due to vacations, Dave Goyette made a motion to cancel the July 9th meeting and Tim Slade seconded the motion. All agreed through a show of hands.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Will St. George made a motion to adjourn and Kay Tallarita seconded. It passed unanimously and Alice Egan adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the DSS Alcorn School. REMINDER NO JULY MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted by Pauline Devino, Secretary

Ken Nelson, Mayor
Bob Cressotti, Council Liaison
Cindy Guerreri, Staff Liaison & Director of Social Services
Mary Keller, Enfield Senior Center Manager
Marie Pyznar, Council Liaison
Christopher Bromson, Town Manager